

THE TIMES FOUNDED 1858.  
THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1858.

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RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1909.

WEATHER TO-DAY—Cold and Rain.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

## EASTERN RAILWAYS ARE FACING STRIKE

Fifty-Two Roads May  
Have Trouble With  
Switchmen.

MANY DEMANDS  
ARE MADE BY MEN

Movement Has Nothing in Com-  
mon With Strike of Switch-  
men in Northwest—Troops  
Bring Quiet to Troubled  
Town of Bridge-  
port.

NEW YORK, December 5.—At a conference of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen held here to-day, Grand Master Leo and Fifth Vice-President Murdock were named as a committee to decide whether the men shall go out or remain at work in case the demand which they will shortly present to fifty-two Eastern railroads for a 10 per cent increase in pay is refused. It is expected that the final schedule of grievances will be in the hands of the railroad managers on Thursday or Friday of this week.

The following statement was issued at the close of the conference: "Before a general strike can be ordered it must have the official sanction of the grand master. In the event of the refusal of the demands a poll will be taken for the purpose of endorsing the demands, in order that the general strike when called may be unanimous and effective. The demand already has been endorsed once by more than a two-thirds vote of the membership."

"The movement planned will have nothing in common with the general strike being conducted at present by the Switchmen's Union of North America, which is distinctly a rival and an enemy of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen."

This statement represents 101,000 switchmen and trainmen.

**Strike Threatened.**  
BUFFALO, N. Y., December 5.—Authority to call a strike of all union switchmen between Buffalo and Chicago, if such a course is deemed necessary, is vested in a committee of the union, which goes to Chicago to-morrow to negotiate with the general managers of the nine railroads for a settlement of certain demands. A referendum vote to secure the sentiment of the organization and to give their committee a free hand was taken some time ago, according to Grand Vice-President Burd.

The demands will be for a 5-cent increase per hour in wages, time and a half for overtime exceeding a ten-hour day, double time for Sundays and holidays and a modification of the physical test.

**Storm and Strike Work Together.**  
ST. PAUL, MINN., December 5.—Cold and snow are now delaying freight traffic on the Northern Pacific and some parts of the Great Northern Railroads more than the strike of switchmen, according to statements issued by the general managers of these roads to-night. According to General Manager Slade, of the Northern Pacific, freight is more or less tied up along the system on account of the snow, and especially in Northern Minnesota and North Dakota. Passenger trains are from one to four hours late in St. Paul to-night.

According to an official statement, the Northern Pacific has had all switchmen here that they need now, and new arrivals are shipped west. Fifteen switch engines were working at Tacoma, and business is opening at Seattle, according to Mr. Slade. President Hawley, of the Switchmen's Union, stated that he had received word from several Eastern points to-day to the effect that switchmen in those places are ready to strike on a moment's notice.

**Quiet at Bridgeport.**  
BRIDGEPORT, OHIO, December 5.—The situation at the Aetna-Standard Plant of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, where for three days rioting has been intermittent between strikers and guards, was quiet to-day. Fifteen hundred militia, comprising the main strength of three regiments, entered the town during the night and early to-day, taking possession of the tin plants and adjacent property in the name of the State of Ohio, also placing the town under martial law. Fifty thousand sightseers thronged the streets, arriving here from outside points.

Vice-President Larkin and Lewis, of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Metal Workers, representing a greater portion of the striking men, arrived to-day and were closeted for hours with Joshua Bishop, of the Ohio State Board of Arbitration. No statement was made concerning the outcome of the conference. It is believed that at least 1,000 of the troops will leave for their homes to-morrow, as the situation is now extremely quiet and more rioting highly improbable.

**Strike Is Indorsed.**  
CHICAGO, ILL., December 5.—Unions affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor to-day indorsed the strike of switchmen in the Northwest and pledged the strikers moral and financial support. Attacks were made on the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen for its refusal to support the strike.

That Chicago switchmen expect to be drawn into the conflict was made plain by J. B. Connors, vice-president of the Switchmen's Union of North America, who declares that if a strike is ordered in Chicago the switchmen belonging to the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen will go out with the switchmen, who are members of the Switchmen's Union. In discussing the attitude of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen in the Northwestern controversy, John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, said that when the Duluth Board of Trade adopted resolutions commending the action of the Brotherhood in ordering its men back to work, that in itself was sufficient to show that it was not a labor union.

## CHICAGO LAWYER WILL GO TO CHINA

William J. Calhoun Selected as  
Man for Post at  
Pekin.

WELL FITTED FOR PLACE

He Succeeds to Position Out of  
Which Charles Crane  
Talked Himself.

CHICAGO, ILL., December 5.—William J. Calhoun, a Chicago attorney and diplomat, to-night admitted that Secretary of State Knox had offered him the post of minister to China. The admission came in denial of a report that he had declined to accept the offer. Mr. Calhoun explained that he had been induced by Secretary of State Knox to reconsider a determination not to accept the appointment, which was offered two weeks ago.

Mr. Calhoun spent much of the day in consultation with his law partners at his office, and among his friends the opinion prevailed that he would go to China.

While Mr. Calhoun is a very well known lawyer and man of affairs, his most conspicuous service to the United States was in connection with the culmination of troubles in Venezuela. He acted as commissioner in the adjustment of the difficulties with President Castro. This service, which was tedious and exacting, established a reputation for Mr. Calhoun with the State Department as a diplomat of tact and patience.

He was for nearly two years a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, having been appointed by President McKinley, in March, 1898, and surrendered his commission in October, 1900.

Mr. Calhoun was born in Pittsburg, Pa., the State of Mr. Knox, Secretary of State, and is just sixty-one years old. After an academic education he studied law, was admitted to the bar, practiced at Danville, Ill., which is the home address of Speaker Cannon. Mrs. Calhoun, who was Miss Alde D. Harmon, of Danville, died in 1898.

The prospective minister is now a member of the firm of Calhoun, Lyford & Shean, of Chicago, a member of the Union League and other Chicago clubs, with an office in the Rookery Building. The filling of the place was somewhat complicated through the recall and resignation of Charles H. Crane, of Chicago, after he had reached San Francisco, to leave for the Far East.

**Ends Long Search.**  
Since it was determined that Mr. Crane would not go to Pekin, both the President and Secretary Knox have been searching for a man who combined all the qualities held to be necessary in China. Several candidates have been put forward, and from all of them the selection of Mr. Calhoun has been determined upon.

Mr. Calhoun is probably best known as one of the trusted friends and advisers of the late President William McKinley. Before Mr. McKinley became President Mr. Calhoun, then a leading member of the bar of Chicago, was the guide of the man later to be President in the State of Illinois. Mr. Calhoun, before the outbreak of the Spanish War, was sent by President McKinley to Cuba to investigate the Ruiz case. His report made a deep impression when it was published, and the Ruiz heirs afterward recovered a large amount through the Spanish War Treaty Claims Commission.

He is a man of very wide experience and culture, and it is said by his friends that few of his mental qualities could be found for the Chinese mission. His law training has been largely in business, and that will give him the commercial qualifications which President Taft has required.

**STIR IN LONDON**

Literary Men Are Surprised at Poet

Watson's Action.  
[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]  
LONDON, December 5.—Mrs. Herbert Asquith, wife of the Premier, and Violet Asquith, his daughter, named by the poet, William Watson, for the first time when he reached New York as the day figures for his "Woman With the Serpent's Tongue," are in Scotland, and although they have received a comprehensive account of Watson's remarkable statement, they have thus far declined to comment on it.

In London, the news of Watson's action created a mild stir, but on account of the political situation and the Premier's position, there is little disposition to discuss the matter. Literary men are greatly surprised that Watson should have exposed the literary characters in his poem, but decline to discuss him on the ground that he is acting solely for advertisement purposes.

**Will Form New Cabinet.**

ROME, December 5.—Baron Sidney Sonnino, who was premier in 1905, has been semi-officially intrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet the Giolitti Cabinet having resigned Thursday.

## LEADERS WAITING WHITE HOUSE WILL

Until That Is Known  
No Plans Will Be  
Made.

FACTIONS DEFER  
TO PRESIDENT

Opening of Congress To-Day  
Finds Few Legislative Lines  
Laid—All Delaying Action  
Till Taft's Wishes Are  
Made Known in First  
Message.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5.—At noon to-morrow the first regular session of the Sixty-first Congress will be convened. Vice-President Sherman will preside in the Senate, and Speaker Cannon will wield the gavel in the House.

The beginning of the session is regarded, as always, with much interest, but there have been few sessions in recent years of which there has been so little planning among members. Ordinarily, Speaker Cannon and Senator Aldrich, who speaks for the majority of the Senate, have a program at the beginning of a session, but this year they have none, for they have one, they are not talking about it. They are waiting upon the President. By common consent, apparently, all are holding back until the presidential recommendations can be received, as they will be on Tuesday, in his first annual message. That his suggestions will be acted upon is too much to say. But there is a disposition to accommodate him as far as can be done, and there is a determination to hear his intimations before entering upon any effort at legislation along lines upon which he has intimated a desire to be heard.

**Insurgents Waiting.**

Even the "insurgents" generally express a willingness to wait upon the White House before attempting to formulate a plan of action. This is true both in the Senate and the House. They manifest much interest in the forthcoming message, but say that until it is received they will be unable to form any plans. They proclaim no fight against the President, but some of them are avowedly irascible in their attitude towards the Speaker and Senator Aldrich, whom they hold responsible, the one for the House rules and the other for the tariff law. Unquestionably they will be heard from some way before the session grows very old, and it is not hoped by the friends of the new tariff that they will escape criticism. They are prepared for this, and will attempt to meet it when it comes. There is practically no prospect of amending the rules of the House during this session, and the indications are strong that there will be no general effort in that direction. There will doubtless be some talk, however.

The principal intubility of railroad legislation, and all hands are waiting with keen expectancy to see what recommendations, if any, Mr. Taft may make on that subject.

**Not Apprehensive.**

Much interest is felt in the Nicaraguan situation, but the general disposition is to permit the executive branch to deal with it without legislative interference, at least in the present stage. Congressmen generally are not apprehensive as to the outcome.

The attitude of Canada towards the provisions of the tariff law relative to print paper and wood pulp is giving some concern. There will be early efforts to remedy this situation, but there is no cooperation tax provision in the tariff bill, and the attitude of the tariff bill was under consideration during the extra session, Senator Aldrich expressed the opinion that it might not be of long life, but he probably will take no steps to abrogate it until the full effect of the tariff as a revenue producer can be ascertained.

Representative Campbell will introduce a resolution Monday for an investigation of the sugar trust.

The opinion is quite general that after their long "wait at the church" New Mexico and Arizona will attain to statehood before the close of the session. The President has promised that they shall come in separately, and while many members still regard the responsibility of statehood, the probabilities are that they will yield and allow the passage of a bill enabling their admission.

**Opposition for Both.**

There also will be strenuous efforts to get through a postal savings bill which will be opposed. Both houses will probably adjourn almost immediately after convening on Monday—the Senate on account of the death of Senator Johnson, of North Dakota, and the House because of the deaths of Representatives De Armond, of Missouri, and Lassiter, of Virginia, all of which have occurred during the recess. Mr. Thompson, who succeeds Senator Johnson, will be sworn in on Monday. Mr. McCready, of New Mexico, the one the Secretary of the late Representative Cushman, of Washington, and the other of William Lorimer, of Illinois, elevated to the Senate.

The President's message will be read and read in both houses on Tuesday.

## NEW EVIDENCE UNEARTHED SUPPORTS MURDER THEORY

Little Doubt Remains  
That Mrs. Ocey Snead  
Was Assassin's  
Victim.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NEW YORK, December 5.—Prominent educators and literary men appeared to-day as friends of the Wardlaw family, of Virginia, which has been shrouded in such mystery as the result of the discovery of the body of Mrs. Ocey Wardlaw Martin Snead in a bathtub in a lonely New Jersey house.

The entrance of these men into the case lifts it into a new light, and reveals the fact that the family, however some of its members may have been recently charged with suspicious, if not criminal, action, comes of a high mental strain and has been associated with people of intellectual and social standing.

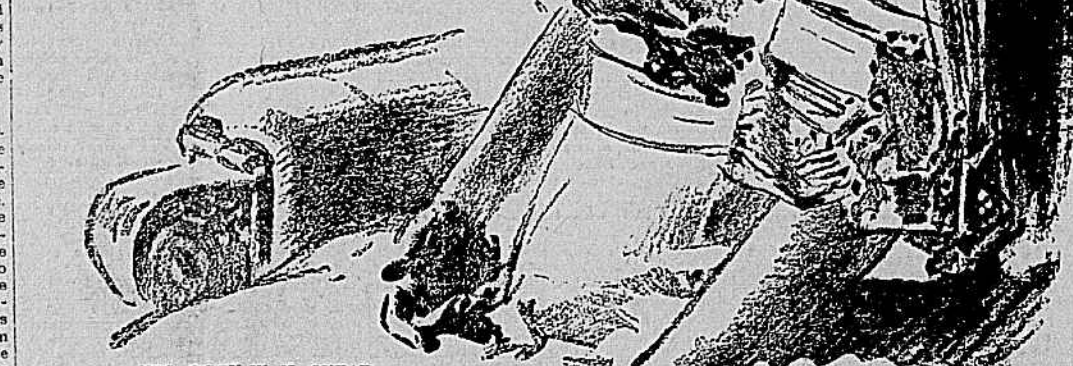
One of the friends of the family, it was learned to-day, is Walter Hines Page, the publisher and author. Dr. Page visited Mrs. Mary Snead, aunt of the dead girl, and Mrs. Martha Wardlaw, her grandmother, at their humble home at 406 West Twenty-second street. Just what was the purpose of his visit, Dr. Page declined to make public.

"I know a great deal about this family," he said. "But I prefer not to talk about the subject now."

Other prominent men who have come forward in behalf of the Wardlaw family are Professor Alexander Thomas Ormond, who holds the chair of mental science and logic at Princeton University, and Professor Henry Fairfield Osborne, of Columbia, who has a national reputation for his research work in anatomy, zoology and paleontology.

In the meantime to-day the police of

(Continued on Page Two—Column 1.)



MRS. OCEY W. M. SNEAD.



This Photograph of David Pollok Snead, Son of the Dead Woman, Was Taken at St. Christopher Hospital, New York, Where the Child Is Being Cared For.

## SOCIALISM, SUFFRAGE, STRIKES; ALL GET PLAY AT "WHOPPER PARTY"

Striking Shirtwaist-Makers Are  
Guests of Mrs. Oliver  
H. P. Belmont.

HIPPODROME IS PACKED

Few Male Persons Are Scattered  
About Among Six Thousand  
and Women.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NEW YORK, December 5.—The Ladies' Shirtwaist Makers' Union at the Hippodrome this afternoon was headed on the south by Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, on the east by Professor Julius Hopp, founder of the Coddington School of Art and Drama, and on the west by Alexander Irvine. Within the boundaries were 6,000 women who were mighty serious in the belief that they had some sense and ability enough to get the same kind of a deal that men do.

Here and there, spotted among the shirtwaists and the hats of black velvet trimmed with gold—a fashion that has become very popular lately with suffragettes as well as with less advanced women—were male persons who seemed to sit stiffly and affect perfect composure. They were observed to smile now and then, but when 6,000 shirtwaists rustled noisily and 12,000 hands came together with terrific impact, the smiles tightened up and the male persons looked as if they thought there was something in it after all.

There were six men who sat along the first side of the Hippodrome, six men who seemed to hold the meeting lightly, who chattered among themselves. And then Dr. Anna Shaw got up and said that if the men had not gone into the homes and unknown women's work for themselves, women wouldn't have had to go into sweatshops. And all of a sudden, Mrs.

(Continued on Page Two—Column 1.)

NO "PORK BARREL"  
SENTIMENT HERE

MILSTEAD LIKELY  
TO LAND POSITION

Rivers and Harbors Congress  
Will Meet With Broad Ob-  
ject in View.

Newport News Man May Be  
Made Superintendent of  
Penitentiary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5.—The President, members of the Cabinet, the Governors of five States, members of Congress and other men prominent in national life will attend the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, which begins a three-day session in this city next Wednesday. This year's gathering probably will be the most representative in the history of the movement for the development of the inland waterways of the country.

The congress is expected to mark an epoch. It is said that this will be the first time the delegates will have ever met without the "pork barrel" sentiment, a movement for a comprehensive and broad waterways project for all the country is to be the object.

President Taft is expected to make the first address of the congress, which will be called to order by its president, Joseph E. Ransdell, Count Von Bornstorff, German ambassador to the United States, will address the delegates, telling of the government and development of the inland waterways of Germany.

That, with the appointment of committees and examination of credentials will complete the first day's business. The following two days there will be addresses by Governors Hadley, of Missouri; Weeks, of Connecticut; Harrison, of Ohio; Eberhardt, of Minnesota; and Burke, of North Dakota. Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel will speak, and so will Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of Corporations.

To all appearances, City Sergeant E. W. Milstead, of Newport News, will be the next Superintendent of the State Penitentiary, succeeding the late Major Evan P. Morgan. The political undercurrent seems to drift in the direction of the man from the Tidewater city.

However, there are other strong men whose names have been mentioned in this connection. Among them are: State Senator Arthur C. Harman, Raleigh T. Green, of Culpeper, and Captain Freq. A. Lamb, the present Assistant Superintendent.

The power of selection rests with the Board of Directors of the Penitentiary. This body is composed as follows: John C. Ransley, Samuel C. Wood, Major James D. Patton, James B. Cohen, president of Board of Aldermen, all of Richmond, and W. B. Bradley, of Manchester. These are appointed by the Governor, one every year, for a term of five years. Under section 148 of the Constitution, the board appoints the Superintendent for a term of four years.

Mr. Milstead has been City Sergeant of Newport News ever since the city has existed, although his term of office is about to expire. He was defeated at the Democratic primary held last summer. Before Newport News got into the city rank he was sheriff of Warwick county. He is much interested in prison work, is an active and popular man, and is favorably spoken of by those who know him.

Senator Harman formerly served on the Board of Directors, and made a

(Continued on Page Two—Column 1.)

## BATTLE AT RAMA MAY TERMINATE ZELAYA'S RULE

His Ranks Thinned by  
Desertion and Sol-  
diers Starving.

REBEL GENERAL  
HAS TAKEN FIELD

Taft and Knox Confer, and It Is  
Rumored That Stinging Mes-  
sage Covering Nicaragua  
Situation Will Be Sent  
to Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5.—President Taft to-night called Secretary of State Knox into consultation at the White House, and the report immediately spread that the top annual message was the matter of sending to Congress a hot and stinging special message on the imbroglio with Nicaragua. Neither the President nor Mr. Knox would say anything of their conference. It is regarded as likely, however, that the Nicaraguan matter was uppermost, and it is also intimated that the discussion took the form of outlining a policy that will cover the whole Central American country.

So far as actual news was concerned, the day was uneventful. The State Department received no advice, according to a statement made late this evening, while the Navy Department likewise was without fresh information.

Senator Salvador Castillejo, the representative of the insurrectionists, forces under General Estrada, President of the provisional government, received a message to-night which declared that General Estrada has left Bluefields and has taken the field.

In a decisive battle, the dispatch continued, is imminent in the vicinity of Rama. It is believed, in view of the reported desertions from Zelaya's ranks, that this fight may terminate the war, especially so because of the reports that Zelaya's men are both short of ammunition and in extremities for food.

**Prairie Still in Mud.**

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 5.—Despairing of quickly freeing the auxiliary cruiser Prairie from the mud flats at the Delaware River, the Delaware River, where she has been stuck since last Thursday, the marines and stores aboard the stranded cruiser were to-day removed to the auxiliary cruiser Dixie. It is probable that the latter vessel will get under way to-morrow and continue to Colon, the original destination of the Prairie.

Two more vain attempts were made to-day to free the Prairie. Lighters had removed more than 800 tons of coal and all the 800,000 rounds of ammunition, when half a dozen tug boats strained and pulled in an effort to get the Prairie into deep water at high tide this morning. The warship did not budge from the shoal, and when the tide began to recede again the work of removing additional stores and the 800 marines to the Dixie was begun.

This work continued all afternoon, and at flood tide this evening tugs Somer N. Smith, New Castle, Modoc, Samoset and Vidette and the steam dredge Delaware were attached to the Prairie, and another effort was made to pull the vessel clear. This attempt failed, and to-night the Prairie remains stuck in almost the same position as when it first grounded.

The auxiliary Dixie, which will probably sail to-morrow, is a sister ship to the Prairie, and has been in readiness at the Philadelphia Navy-Yard for some time.

**Activity at Navy Yard.**

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 5.—Orders from Washington that four of the modern warships now at the yard be prepared for immediate sailing caused great activity to-day at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The new battleship Michigan has been ordered put into commission, and is to sail for Hampton Roads on Tuesday. Another big battleship, the Idaho, is also being prepared to sail at a moment's notice, but her destination is being kept secret. The new armored cruiser Columbia has been ordered to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where it will be converted to a transport and will be held in readiness to convey additional marines to Central America if necessary.

The new torpedo boat Smith, which recently completed its trial trip and was accepted by the government, is being prepared to sail for the torpedo station at Newport, R. I., on Tuesday.

**Speeding to Corinto.**

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., December 5.—The gunboat Princeton sailed to-day after taking on coal and stores at California City. The Princeton is under orders to proceed to Corinto with all possible speed and join the Vicksburg, now in that harbor.

**A Very Busy Junta.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5.—The Central American Junta, composed of diplomats and patriots from the five turbulent little republics on the neck of land between Yucatan and South America, is one of the latest acquisitions of the capital of the United States. While it has been meeting regularly ever since Secretary Knox sent his famous letter to President Zelaya of Nicaragua telling him to be good, it has managed to shroud itself in mystery. The Junta is working steadily on plans that have to do with the future of the isthmian waters by the waters of the Caribbean Sea.

It is unofficial, but nevertheless, its sessions are held in the cafe of a leading hotel, much frequented by South and Central American diplomats, and the policies of the Central American